Books — and Authors

Churchill Approves

SIX VOLUMES CONDENSED

By JOHN BARKHAM

LIKE TOYNBEE, Frazer, Sandburg and other large-scale writers, Sir Winston Churchill has now been accorded the honor of a one-volume condensation for his most widely-read work. His six-volume history of the Second World War has been boiled down to a single substantial tome by Denis Kelly, and, since the result meets with the approval of the hard-to-please author himself, it is not surprising to discover that the job has been most expertly done.

The unique organ-tone flavor of the Churchillian prose has been fully retained, but most of the military details and much of the supporting correspondence has been eliminated. Readers who have hitherto blanched at the prospect of plowing through the six original volumes will now have no pretext for not savoring this magnum opus.

The book is called **Memoirs of the Second World War.**

They will have the additional incentive of reading a special epilogue which Sir Winston wrote two years ago on post-war developments. This is in effect a brand new chapter updating the original work, and it greatly enhances the value of this abridgement. In it Sir Winston surveys the current situation, reminding us with justifiable pride of his success in peering into the future. It was he who, in his Fulton, Mo. speech of 1946, predicted the cold war (which duly came to pass) and who, in the same year, foreshadowed the essential rapprochment between France and her old adversary, Germany, which also has come about.

Certain phases of Communist evolution give him cause for guarded optimism. "The doctrine of Communism," he notes, "is slowly being separated from the Russian military machine. Nations will continue to rebel against the Soviet colonial empire, not because it is Communist, but because it is alien and oppressive."

This leads him to conclude that Russia will ultimately find that peace and plenty have more to offer than exterminatory war. Indeed, if Khrushchev's grandiloquent dream of overtaking the United States economically ever occurs, and the Russian people come to enjoy a better life than we do, the danger of war will have receded for good. Who would want to destroy such a paradise?

Sir Winston pays a rare tribute to President Truman for his willingness to make important decisions when necessary, adding: "His celerity, wisdom and courage in the Korean crisis make him worthy, in my estimation, to be numered among the greatest of American presidents."

Sir Winston is critical of the United Nations as "a vain assertion of equality of influence and power which has no relation to the actual facts." He feels that small states should curb their eagerness to "speak for the whole of mankind." Nevertheless he closes with the hopeful observation: "It may well be if wisdom and patience are practised that apportunity for all will conquer the minds and restrain the passions of mankind."

To which we say: "Amen."

'Flight into Danger'

CANADIAN PAIR SCORES SUCCESS

By JOHN SHAW

IT IS VERY PLEASANT to see Canadian writers breaking the barriers to the high-class American fiction market. Curtis Distributing Company, of Toronto, has written to say that in the March issue of the Ladies Home Journal, one of the "big price" publications, appears a condensed novel, "Flight Into Danger," by Toronto authors Arthur Hailey and John Castle. The magazine actually went on sale Feb. 26.

Perhaps more important, is the announcement that Ryerson Press, Toronto, will publish shortly a hard cover edition for Canadian readers. This, of course, will not be the condensed version which the Ladies' Home Journal printed.

Simultaneously with publication in Canada, Doubleday & Co. will put the novel on sale under the title **Runway Zero-Eight.**

This story is exciting reading. It ranks with such stirring tales of flying adventure as **Proving Flight, Point or No Return,** and Neville Shute's **The Rainbow and the Rose.**

"They were four miles above the earth . . . none of them aware that the man at the controls of the luxury aircraft had never even seen such a set-up before."

That's the caption of the full-page color illustration in the Ladies Home Journal. And it sets the scene and atmosphere for a story-plot which it would spoil the reader's pleasure to reveal.

Look for this book among the best sellers of the continent.

'Elizabeth the Great'

'UNFORGETTABLE' CRITIC CLAIMS

By HARRISON SMITH

THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT that in the long annals of British history no reign was more glorious than that of Elizabeth I. Countless biographies, novels and histories have been written, but few of them have been able to bring to full life the Queen who without doubt saved England from chaos and avoided war throughout Europe. Elizabeth Jenkins has ventured in her book "Elizabeth The Great," to gather a vast amount of personal information on this fabulous woman and in the process has created one of the most absorbing biographies of the new year.

Elizzabeth Jenkins . . . writes of her namesake's glory.

An eminent English historian, Dr. A. L. Rowse, has stated that **Elizabeth the Great** gets nearer to penetrating the secret of the most remarkable woman in history than anyone has ever done . . . the result is a portrait that in unforgettable and very touching . . . quite the most perceptive book about Elizabeth I that I have ever read.

The morning after Elizabeth's mother, Anne Boleyn, was beheaded on Tower Green, charged with committing adultery with five men and condemned on a verdict of high treason, Elizabeth's father, Henry VIII, married Jane Seymour. Elizabeth was then two years old.

Miss Jenkin's chapters on the development of her girlhood reveal a lively, sensitive child with reddish-golden hair, a very white skin, and an insatiable passion for learning. She was, in fact, a prodigy, rapidly absorbing history, geography, mathematics and four modern languages, besides Greek and Latin, under a celebrated tutor, Roger Ascham. She was considered cold, quick-tempered and peculiar. When she was eight years old she said, "I will never marry."

As the years went by, this slender and pale young woman revealed an astonishing gift for statesmanship in an era when nearly all of Europe and Scotland was in turmoil.

During the turbulent times that followed her coronation, Elizabeth's titled suitors from Spain and France were pawns in the devious game she was playing to save England from financial ruin, war and the Catholic religion. Her strongest weapons were her ability to charm the common people, her talent for diplomacy and her dedication to her role as Queen of England.

Few readers of this book will fail to be enthralled from the first to the last chapter. The author has brought to life a strange and entrancing genius, an astonishing woman who may have saved the western world.

"It's the most beautiful 'coming-to-terms-with-our-civilization' book I've ever read. I suggest we hold off publishing it until you've had a chance to write a few really devastating attacks on society. Then you can come to terms with it.